

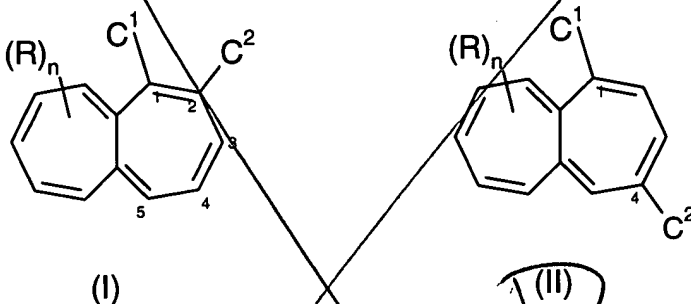
Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1, 16 and 25 by replacement as follows:

B₁ ~~SUB. 1. (**amended**) Method for information storage and data processing comprising the step of thermo-inducing or photo-inducing double-bond shifts in substituted [4n]-annulenes which are substituted by at least one group comprising an extended conjugated π -electron system which is in conjugation with the π -electron system of the [4n]-annulene core, thus generating transitions between two different conjugation states with at least one substituent to produce and/or process a material having at least two distinguishable physical states.~~

16. (**amended**) Substituted [4n]-heptalenes of the general formula (I) or (II) being optically and/or thermally switchable, based on thermal or photochemical double-bond shifts,

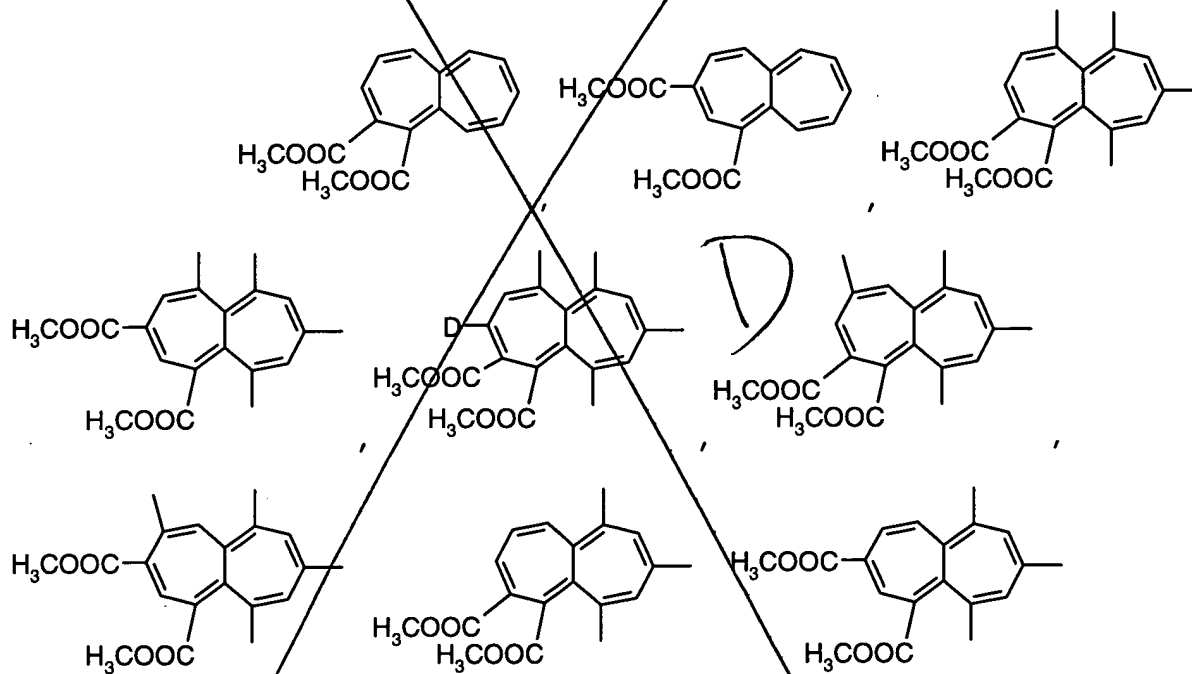


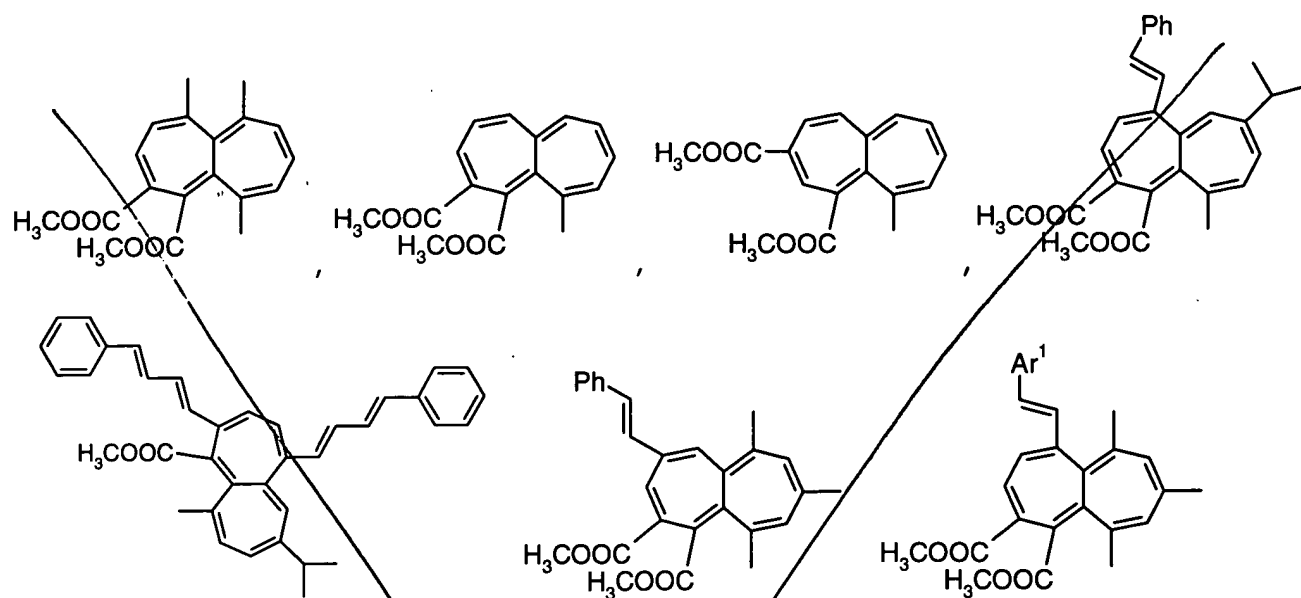
B₂ whereby C¹ and C² represent independently from each other a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂-alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂-alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl-C₁-C₁₂-alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂-alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂-conjugated alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂-alkinyl group, a substituted or an unsubstituted phenyl group, a substituted or an unsubstituted heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a nitro group, a thiocyanate group, a C₁-C₁₂-ester group being optionally polymerisable

with copolymers, with the proviso that at least one of said substituents C^1 and C^2 contains a π -electron system which is in conjugation with the π -electron system of the heptalene core, and whereby said [4n]-heptalenes can comprise at least one further substituent R being selected from the above indicated groups with n being 0-8,

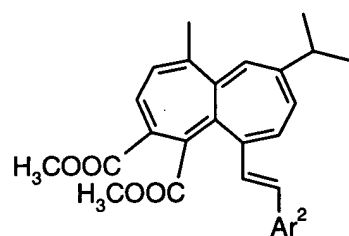
provided that if one of the at least one further substituents R is an (a) isopropyl group at the position 9 of the heptalene ring, the substituent at the position 6 must not be a methyl group, and

with the proviso that heptalenes having the following formulae including their valence isomers are excluded :

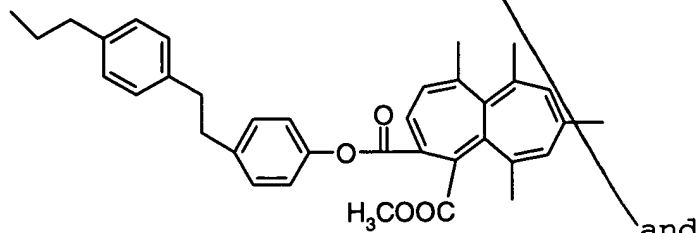
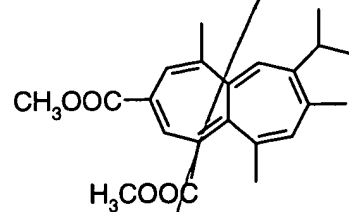
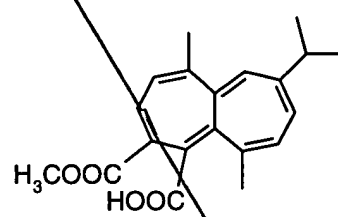
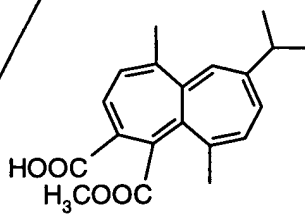
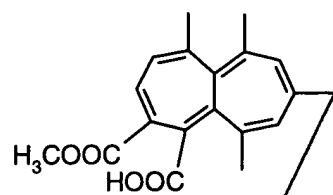
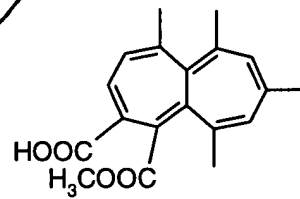
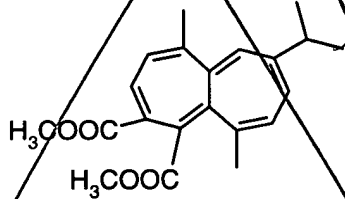
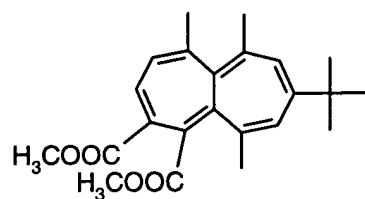




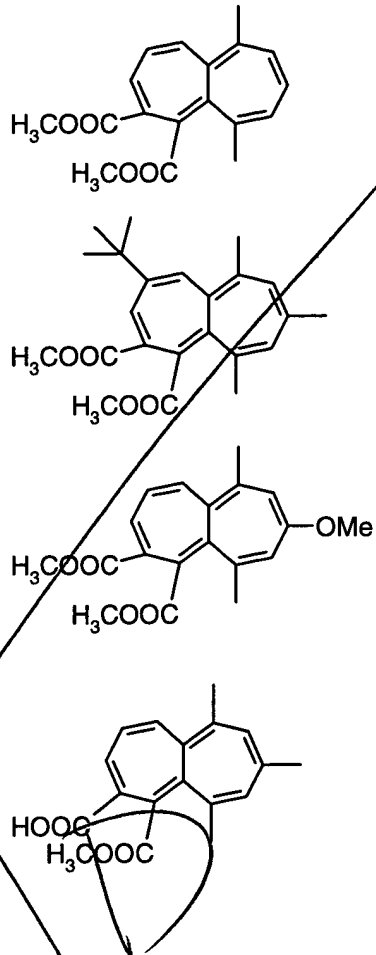
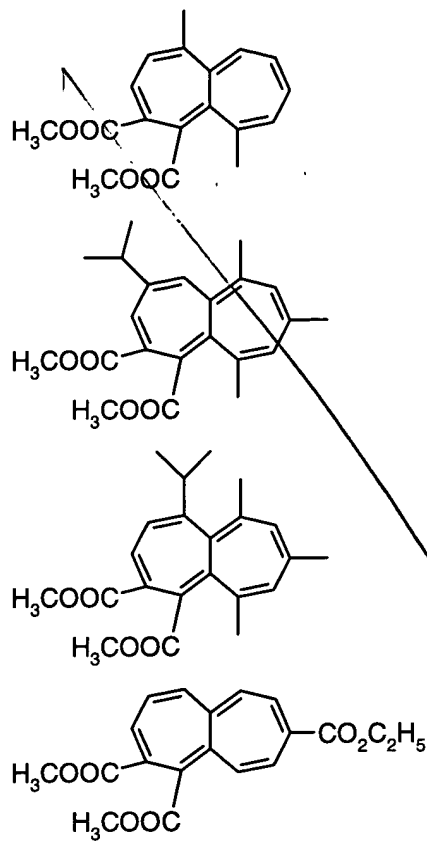
$\text{Ar}^1 = \text{phenyl, 4-chloro phenyl or 4-methoxy phenyl}$



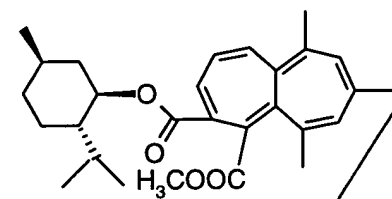
, $\text{Ar}^2 = \text{phenyl or 4-methoxy phenyl,}$



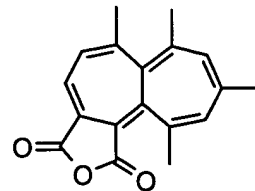
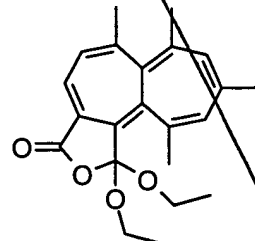
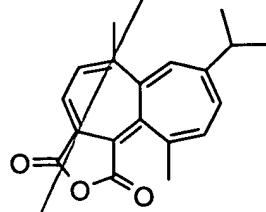
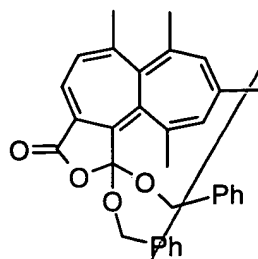
and



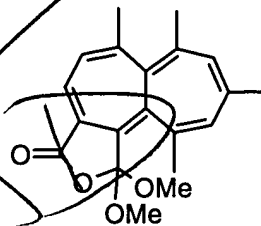
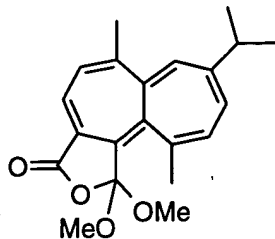
B2
cont.



and



B2
cont.



B3

25. (**amended**) Process of information storage and data processing by using substituted [4n]-annulenes which are substituted by at least one group comprising an extended conjugated π -electron system which is in conjugation with the π -electron system of the [4n]-annulene core undergoing thermally induced or photo-induced double-bond shifts thus generating or processing previously generated at least two different conjugation states with at least one substituent in selected regions of storage medium.